(d) Due to non availability of correct and complete statistics relating to number of accidents and the accident rates of the Air Forces of other countries, it is not possible to assess the comparative performance of the IAF with other Air Forces with reference to flight safety.

(e) The following corrective steps have been taken by the IAF to prevent|minimise air accidents:—

(a) Every accident is investigated by a Court of Inquiry comprising specialists from Air Force, HAL, DTD&P (Air) and D(Aero) and recommendations made by the Court are implemented. High level investigation teams and studies are also ordered whenever an adverse trend or weak area is noticed.

(b) In addition, as an on-going process, the following steps are taken:—

(i) Review of all operational flying training syllabi

(ii) Check of flying skill|ability of all flying supervisors.

(iii) Inspection of all flying units|wings associated with flying|maintenance on regular basis.

(iv) Restreaming of pilots from fighter stream to transport|helicopter stream if they are found unsuitable for fighter air craft.

(v) Action against the defaulters.

(f) Does not arise.

Global tenders for selling of IAF equipment

5904. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have invited global tenders to sell certain Indian Air Force equipment;

(b) whether it is also a fact that certain items listed for sale are unused and that selling of certain equipment would be a policy violation of not exporting missile technology; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons for selling of IAF sensitive equipment with dangers of its falling into the hands of unfriendly countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Only surplus, unserviceable and obsolete Air Force equipments are offered for disposal. Disposal is only through the Special Surplus Stores Disposal Committee set up by the Ministry of Defence. The missiles which have been offered for disposal are obsolete with out-dated technology. All sales of such Defence equipment to other countries is regulated as per laid down policy of the Government.

Acquisition of new battle tank

5905. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the PRIME MINISER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item published in the 'Asian Age' of 15th April, 1994 under the caption "A split in the Army stalls new battle tank"; and

(b) if so what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The aspersion cast in the news-report is not correct. On the basis of excellent performance demonstrated by the indigenous main battle tank ARJUN during the trials, the Army

has given acceptance for its induction into service-use. Further exploitation trails by the troops on ARJUN tank are in progress and simultaneously planning action has been initiated for its production.

Pressure on Government to buy Hawk Jet Trainer

5906. SHRI K. R. MALKANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any pressure on Government to buy the Hawk Jet Trainer planes as reported in the Indian Express dated the 14th March, 1994;

(b) what are the pros and cons of the various Jet Trainers in the international arms bazar; and

(c) by when Government propose to take a decision in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Jet trainer aircraft are used for imparting Basic and Advanced Training to Pilots. After evaluation of various Jet Trainers available in the international market, only two aircraft have been found to be conforming to the Qualitative Requirements laid down by IAF for the Advanced Jet Trainer. Proposals from the manufacturers of both these aircraft have been obtained and evaluated from technical angle. Commercial negotiations with the vendors have also commenced. It is however, not possible to lay down the precise time-frame by which a final decision in the matter would be taken.

Jhuggis on Defence land in Mehrauli

5907. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Defence Department has land measuring 4 bigha and 8 biswa in Khasra No. 802 in Dantri Pahadi, vill. Satyabari, Tehsil-Mehrauli (Delhi);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether jhuggies have come up on this land and farm house labourer are settled there for the last 7-8 years;

(d) whether Government are aware that owners of adjoining plots erected boundary walls with a view to take possession of this land after destroying jhuggies;

(e) whether it is also a fact that they have actualy taken possession of this land on 9th and 10th April, 1994; and

(f) if so, the steps being taken to evict the plot owners, take possession and resettle the jhuggi people.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (f) As per records available with the Defence Estates Officer, Delhi, 0.94 acre comprising Khasra No. 882, village Satbari is defence land. But as per current Civil Revenue records, the Khasra Number is recorded as 802

During an inspection of the site in February 1994 by the Defence Estates Officer Jhuggis were seen on the site. However no Jhuggis are presently existing there. Whether private farm land owners have encroached defence land in their limits will be known after a survey and demarcation of the land, which has not been completed.

Grievances of small scale units registered with CSD

5908. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to remove various grievances of small scale units registered with Canteen Stores Department;